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July 8, 2015

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA

RE: Statement of Support for the Family Wellness Court

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

It is our pleasure to present to you this joint letter expressing our support for the Family Wellness Court, an innovative and collaborative venture between the County of El Dorado (County), the El Dorado County Office of Education, (Office of Education), and the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (Tribe). Our Departments have been working together with the Tribe, the Tribal Court and the Superior Court to develop an alternative judicial process for tribal youth and their families who are either currently engaged in local state or tribal court proceedings or who are at risk of becoming engaged with the local state or tribal court.

The shared vision and mission is for the Court to empower youth and families to create positive change. The participating County departments, community service providers, local education partners, and the Tribe will work together to address individual and familial needs with the goal of reducing recidivism in the delinquency, dependency, and criminal systems by promoting the success of at-risk youth and their families at the earliest possible point.

The new Court is designed to function as a collaborative court, and will receive input from a team of representatives from the County, community, schools, and the Tribe to establish a culturally-based Family Service Plan for the families who are participating in the program.

These services may include behavioral health services, substance abuse services, cultural activities, educational services, and other social services designed to address identified risks. The new Court will use an approach that incorporates the local Native culture, Medicine Wheel teachings and the Ten Wraparound Principles of the National Wraparound Initiative in an effort to achieve better outcomes and long term success for at risk tribal youth and their families.

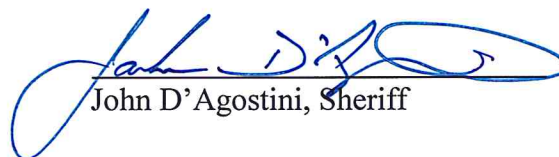

The Probation Department, the Health & Human Services Agency, the District Attorney, and the Public Defender have a substantive commitment to advancing the goals of this collaborative court. This commitment includes helping to identify at-risk youth, making referrals to the new Court, communicating with other participating agencies, making recommendations as a part of the team advising the new Court, and offering other forms of assistance or services where available and appropriate under the circumstances of the case.

We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of the Honorable Christine Williams and the Honorable Suzanne Kingsbury in the formation of this Court and we wholeheartedly express our support for this innovative program.

Very truly yours,


FOR: BRIAN RICHART

Brian Richart, Chief Probation Officer


Teri Monterosso, Public Defender
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John D'Agostini, Sheriff
Robyn Truitt Drivon, County Counsel
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